

Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 OIC-02 /122 W

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R 170559Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7740

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 12015

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR IN
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI COLOMBO FROM MADRAS AUG 16
IS REPEATED

QUOTE

MADRAS 1463

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY G.K. REDDY
ENTITLED "INDIAN DELEGATION'S GOOD JOB AT COLOMBO"
APPEARING IN THE HINDU OF AUGUST 16.

QUOTE.

THE INDIAN DELEGATION AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT, A RELATIVELY
SMALL ONE, HAS BEEN DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB IN THE FACE
OF EXASPERATING DISTRACTIONS FROM THE MAIN PURPOSE OF
THIS CONFERENCE. IT HAS CHOSEN THE PATH OF QUIET DIPLOMACY
FOR SOOTHING THE RUFFLED FEELINGS AND ACHIEVING RESULTS
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WITHOUT CLAIMING ANY CREDIT FOR ITSELF IN AVERTING THE

ERUPTION OF UGLY CONTROVERRIES INTO OPEN DISPUTES DURING THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS.

AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL, THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI, WILL HAVE TO SPEAK FROM THE PEDESTAL AS IT WERE, FOR RAISING THE LEVEL OF THE DELIBERATIONS TO A HIGHER PLANE AT WHICH THE BIGGER ISSUES OF THE DAY COULD BE DEALT WITH GREATER COMPREHENSION, FREE FROM THE PASSIONS OF THE MOMENT. SHE DOES NOT GET INVOLVED IN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OR ALLOW HERSELF TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES ON SUCH OCCASIONS. HER VERY PRESENCE PROVIDES A HARMONIZING INFLUENCE AND ENABLES OTHERS TO RISE ABOVE NARROW REGIONAL OR NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE FOCUS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE COLOMBO SUMMIT WILL BE ON THE POSITIVE FEATURES OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND ITS CONTINUING RELEVANCE AND ON WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH CONCERTED ACTION. AS SHE DID AT THE PREVIOUS SUMMIT CONFERENCES, MRS. GANDHI IS EXPECTED TO STRIKE A PHILOSOPHICAL NOTE ON THE CHANGING PATTERNS OF BIG POWER DOMINANCE, THE NEED FOR CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED CO-OPERATION. HER STYLE ON SUCH OCCASIONS IS TO RISE ABOVE THE DUST AND DIN OF CONTROVERSY AND LOOK BEYOND THE HORIZON TO TAKE A PENETRATING LOOK AT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS IN STORE, RATHER THAN LOOK BACK IN ANGER AT THE HANGOVERS OF THE PAST OR FRUSTRATIONS OF THE PRESENT.

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. Y.B. CHAVAN, WHO ARRIVED IN COLOMBO EARLIER TO ATTEND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, HAD TO FACE THE FULL BRUNT OF THE PROCEDURAL WRANGLES THAT HAVE PRECEDED THE SUMMIT. BUT BY DISPLAYING EXTRAORDINARY TACT AND PATIENCE, WITH HIS CHARACTERISTIC UNFLAPPABILITY, IN ADHERING TO INDIA'S BASIC STAND AND INFUSING AN ELEMENT OF HIGH POLICY OR EVEN LOFTY PHILOSOPHY INTO TACTICAL MOVES FOR WARDING OFF EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS HE HAS BEEN FIRM ON FUNDAMENTALS AND FLEXIBLE OVER DETAILS WITH THE RESULT THAT NO COUNTRY - NOT EVEN ROMANIA HAS BEEN MADE TO FEEL THAT IN TAKING A

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PRINCIPLED STAND THAT WAS TAKING AN UNCHARITABLE VIEW OF ITS ASPIRATIONS. EVEN WHEN HE HAD TO OPPOSE SOME MOVE, HE DID SO WITH A FINESSE GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS DOING SO NOT IN PURSUIT OF ANY NARROW NATIONAL INTEREST BUT FOR THE LARGER GOOD OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. HIS SPEECHES DURING THE CONTENTIONS DEBATES ON CRITERIA AND COMPOSITION OF THE NEW CO-ORDINATION BUREAU WERE CERTAINLY AMONG HIS BEST PERFORMANCES AS INDIA'S EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS MINISTER AT ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THE THIRDRANKING MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, MR. G. PARTHASARATHY, HAS PUT HIS VAST EXPERIENCE TO GOOD USE, PLAYING AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE BEHIND THE SCENES BY RENEWING HIS OLD U.N. CONTACTS WITH THE LEADERS OF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS WHO HAVE COME FOR THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. J.S. META AND HIS TEAM OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, HAVE BEEN RELYING ON PARTHASARATHY'S ADVICE, IN ADDITION TO MR. CHAVAN'S GUIDANCE, FOR WADING THROUGH THE MAZE OF AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THE WHIRLPOOLS OF DECLAMATORY SPEECHES AND VENTILATION OF BILATERAL DISPUTES OF OTHER NATIONS.

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ACTION IO-13

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY, MR. MOHAMMED YUNUS, HAS BEEN PROVIDING A WARM PERSONAL TOUCH TO THE INDIAN DIPLOMACY HERE. HE DOES NOT WASTE HIS TIME IN THE COMMITTEE ROOMS BUT GOES AROUND PERSONALLY MEETING THE MORE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. HE HAS AN UNCANNY GENIUS FOR UTILISING WARM PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS FOR PROMOTING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS COUNTRY'S POLICIES IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE STYLE DEFTLY COMBINING A "NO NONSENSE" APPROACH WITH A DIS-ARMING TOUCH OF GOOD HUMOUR AND SIMPLICITY OF EXPRESSION COUCHED IN IDIOMS THAT APPEAL TO

PEOPLE AND LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON THEM.
HIS PASSION FOR ACHIEVING QUICK RESULTS GIVES HIM THE KIND
OF DRIVE REQUIRED FOR MOBILISING SUPPORT FOR HIS IDEAS AND
ACTIONS.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE INDIAN DELEGATION HAS NOT BEEN
PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO THE EQUALLY IMPORTANT TASK OF
EXPLAINING THE COUNTRY'S POLICIES TO THE FOREIGN PRESS
WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE PROCEEDINGS OF CLOSED SESSIONS OR
TREADING ON THE CORNS OF OTHER NATIONS. IT COULD HAVE
DISPLAYED GREATER INITIATIVE IN PUTTING ACROSS THE INDIAN
POINT OF VIEW THROUGH REGULAR BRIEFINGS AT THE PRESS
CENTRE BY ONE OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION.
IF SUCH A STEP HAD BEEN TAKEN, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
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EASY EVEN FOR THE UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS
TO DENY DUE PUBLICITY TO THE INDIAN POINT OF VIEW WITHOUT
THROWING THEMSELVES OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF DELIBERATE
MISINTERPRETATION. THIS IS A FIELD THAT INDIA CAN
ILL-AFFORD TO NEGLECT AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF THIS
NATURE. SIGNED MCCASKIL

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